



Sustainable Floorings' CeramiCork™ Tile Installation Instructions

General Precautions:

It cannot be stated and emphasized often enough that complete satisfaction and appreciation of Ceramicork Tile flooring is directly dependent on proper installation. Cork flooring problems are not caused by the product itself but by improper installation practices (i.e., use of wrong adhesives, poor subfloor preparation, etc.) or by not following the manufacturer's instructions as shown on the labels of the products to be used.

Cork Tile Precautions:

Avoid installing Ceramicork tiles in any areas with excessive subfloor moisture (i.e. below grade basements, freshly poured concrete, uncured leveling compounds, etc.). It is the responsibility of the installer to test for elevated moisture. When using leveling compounds, complete drying of compound is critical for proper adhesion. Concrete needs to be below 3 lbs Calcium Chloride or 75% RH. If concrete has potential of taking on moisture in future (and/or there are concerns with capillary action), the slab must be sealed prior to installation of the Ceramicork tiles. Even though the initial dry for the recommended adhesive may be a few hours, the complete drying and curing time of these compounds can take 24 hours or more. It is, therefore, important to read the manufacturer's instructions carefully.

Color Variation:

Ceramicork tiles are high quality, natural materials and should be handled accordingly. Some shade variation is an inherent and attractive characteristic of natural products, and should be expected with Ceramicork products. Both wood and cork, as natural materials, may change color when exposed to sunlight over prolonged periods of time. Cork will tend to fade while most woods will darken/mellow. These subtle color changes are an attribute of the product.

Recommended Adhesives:

We recommend Wakol D 3540 for adhering to dry concrete and plywood substrates. Cork is unique in that it is a porous material and therefore allows the water in the adhesive to evaporate and create a strong bond. Although years of experience with contact cement has shown it to be a reliable and effective adhesive in nearly every case, Sustainable Flooring makes no warranty that it is the ideal adhesive for every floor application. We strongly suggest that one or two tiles are tested in a low visibility area prior to installing the entire floor.

Subfloor Preparation:

1. Proper preparation of the subfloor is essential for the successful installation of cork floor tile. Remove paint, wax or any other substance that may prevent proper bonding. All subfloors must be smooth, dry, clean and free of dirt, grease, wax or anything that would hinder a good bond. Subfloors must be level and moisture free. For existing wood floors and installation on top of them, use a paint or varnish remover, then scrub with tri-sodium phosphate. Once completed, wash, rinse and dry the subfloor to remove any potential contaminants that could affect adhesion. It may be necessary in certain instances to machine sand the subfloor in an effort to make it suitable for cork tile installation.

NOTE: Proper subfloor preparation is the job and duty of the installer, and in no way will improper preparation be the liability of Sustainable Flooring.

2. Wood Floors must be leveled and all cracks filled with a wood filler or similar material. The floor should then be sanded to assure uniformity. If conditions require, existing floors may be covered with 3/8 or 1/2 inch plywood with both sides finished. Plywood must be securely anchored.

3. Concrete floors (new or existing) must be leveled with latex fill as needed. Prime the concrete with standard concrete primer. **NOTE: We do not recommend installing cork floor tile on or below the grade, unless precautions are taken to guarantee that moisture will not penetrate through the subfloor.**

4. If installing on existing vinyl or other smooth surfaces, rough up surfaces to ensure adhesive bond. Existing vinyl and sheet goods subfloors must be in good condition, firm and clean.



Ceramicork Tile Installation:

1. Remove cork tiles from packaging materials and place open tiles in the room where installation will take place for 48 hours prior to installation. Temperature should be between 60°F and 70°F (15°C and 21°C) with normal levels of humidity during this period as well as during subsequent installation.
2. Follow the manufacturer's laying instructions for application of adhesives. See attached application and installation instructions for Wakol D 3540. Follow per manufacturers recommendation, supplementing the procedure where applicable with these instructions.
3. Carefully roll tiles with a standard 100 or 150 pound tile roller. Tiles should be rolled a minimum of four times in each direction. To clean excess adhesive from tiles after installation, use a damp cloth if the adhesive is wet or mineral spirits if it is dry.
4. Tiles may be cut with a linoleum or utility knife. Be sure knife is sharp.
5. After installation, restrict heavy traffic for 24 hours or more, again following manufacturer's adhesive instructions.
6. If you opted for "sanded" (or unfinished) tiles, a urethane or flooring wax can be applied on tiles immediately following installation. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
7. In areas that are high traffic or prone to the presence of water, it is further suggested that if prefinished tiles are used, another coat (or two) of water-based polyurethane suitable for use with the finish applied on the product ordered, is recommended, as this tends to seal the seams and joints between the tiles. Screen (lightly sand), and recoat.

Note: These directions are general guidelines for floor and/or wall installers. It is the responsibility of the installer to determine the correct adhesive to be used based on job site conditions. It is the installers' responsibility to follow all installation instructions not only as it relates to the proper subfloor preparation and application of the adhesive, but also to determine proper drying and cure times based on existing conditions at the time of installation. If you have any questions, contact your supplier prior to commencing installation.

Maintenance Recommendations

Cleaning: Sweep or vacuum floor frequently to avoid build-up of abrasive particles. Regular mopping is also suggested to keep the floor surface free of dirt and grit. Use a WELL wrung out damp mop (using either just water, or a mixed solution of vinegar and water – one cup of vinegar per gallon of water). If the cleaning solution you are using does not evaporate within minutes, you are using too much.

Spills: Clean up spills and excess water immediately. Never flood the floor surface with any liquid or use harsh abrasive cleaners.

Furniture: Furniture foot pads are recommended to prevent indentations in the tiles.

Entrance Mats: Entrance mats are recommended in order to keep dirt and moisture from coming in contact with the floor. Do not allow a moisture saturated floor mat to remain on the cork floor.

Refinishing: Cork floor tiles may be refinished. When the floor starts to show a traffic pattern and signs of wear, the surface of the floor must be recoated with a high quality water based urethane that will match ceramic finish. Follow the finish manufacturer's instructions to adhere to ceramic water-based polyurethane. It is the responsibility of the owner to judge when the floor needs recoating. Most Ceramicork Tile active patterns are made of thin veneer laminated to a cork base. Failure to maintain the finish could result in irreparable damage. A reapplication of urethane will make the floor look new again and prolong its lifespan.